The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Wednesday, September 1st, 2010 #6

Size Does Matter!

A large stage calls for a lot of equipment and experienced staff. photo: ang, bat

When asked about what he likes most about the new location, Eurofurence chairman Cheetah says: "Finally we have enough space." But with more space, new challenges arise.

Space aplenty - everyone who wanted to attend EF this year was able to get a place. Enough space for performers and audience on and in front of the stage.

The Hotel has experience when it comes to hosting larger stage events. This of course makes it neccessairy to highten the level of professionalism of the Eurofurence Stage Crew. Safety regulations make it necessary to have a clear construction concept. Former means of improvisation are no longer an option. Conduits and cables need to be set up in a way as not to violate fire regulations. This means that errors in rigging or broken equipment can only be replaced with considerable time effort. The days of cables fixed to the floor with tape a definitely a thing of the past.

The size of the stage will also pose a challenge to the performers on stage. Most of them are used to acting in a smaller space and not to appear overwhelmed by empty space will be a daunting task.

The centrality of the Hotel also requires a new security strategy. The foremost issue will be the fact that the convention will become somewhat open to the general public which makes a stricter enforcement of the rules of conduct a necessity. The location proves to be security friendly since its arangement allows for much better oversight by less personel hightening the flexibilty of security members to react in time of need. But even though there are a few little kinks that need to be ironed out, the general attitude is very positive. The concensus is: finally enough room to make things really awesome.

Here we go again

Goodbye Ringberg - welcome Maritim! Leaving a well-loved location behind and moving on to a new one - let alone a four star business hotel! - represents a major break for con-goers and members of staff alike. Everything is new, huge, shiny and even slightly overwhelming. But with next to a thousand furries populating the place, it will soon feel like the familiar, friendly bee-hive that is Eurofurence.

Everything is not new at the "Daily". After a very warm reception last year, we absolutely had to run another newsletter project this year. And while gave the lay-out a slight face-lift, we tried to retain those qualities that made it work in the first place. Once again, we aim to provide you with an appetizing mixture of useful timetable information, informative journalism, sprinkled with bits of fun and entertainment.

While we are missing two important crew members - Tambako is exhibiting his photos and Bariki has started a new job, kudos! - we have a number of new talents you can look forward to: VulpesRex (writer), Tekumseh (photographer) and Ice-wolf (lay-out/proof-reading) as well as our two volunteer photographers Chitatz and Shep-Dog. We will do our best to keep you up-to-date and provide you with reading-fodder for your coffee breaks. We hope that you will enjoy this convention just as much as we do!

Yours, Luxen

Sight-Seeing and Eating Out in Magdeburg

One advantage of the convention site being right in the city center is the possibility to go sight-seeing in your event-free time. There are several points of interest that are within easy walking distance of the Maritim Hotel.

One extragavant destination is a specimen of surreal architecture of Friedensreich Hundertwasser. Converted from GDR-era apartment block, the 'Green Citadel of Magdeburg' was the final project the artist planned completely before his death. Located southeast of the convention hotel at Breiter Weg 9.

Another historical building of importance is the former monastery 'Kloster Unser Lieben Frauen', built in Romanesque style and having survived considerably well. It can be found two blocks east of the Hundertwasser building (Regierungsstrasse 4). Although most of Magdeburg burnt down during the Thirty Years' War and much of the population perished, the city cathedral survived. Originally founded by Otto I, the first Holy Roman Emperor, the cathedral burnt down in 1207. It was reconstructed, becoming the first German cathedral built in Gothic style. The large building is easy to find by continuing south from the monastery (Domplatz 1).

The 'Green Citadel' is not all that green. photo: bat

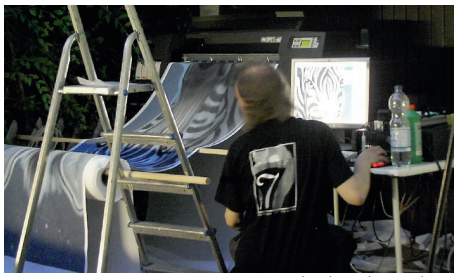
In terms of local culinary specialties Magdeburg isn't especially distinct from wider German food culture. For that reason it might be better to try a meat dish like Eisbein or go to a bakery or a cafe to have German pastries. *(hhp)*

Visitor Statistics

One of 141 - a British 'Bobby' checking in. photo: ang

At 991 attendees, Eurofurence 16 is just nine visitors short of the magical 1000 threshold.This means a plus of 80 guests - the growth trend of the last years is unbroken. Germans still represent the biggest nationality group (424), followed by the British (141), the Dutch (60), the Americans (53) and the Austrians (53). Sixth in line are the Russians, whose attendance score has increased from 27 last year to 40. A good ten percent (104) of the con-goers are female. 105 people are staying outside the Maritim. *(lux)*

Decoration Team Dreams Big



From a backyard in Berlin...

...to the Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. photos: Riffuchs/bat

The most ambitious decoration project in the history of Eurofurence features eleven giant banners. A tale of ink and sweat.

In a hotel as big as the Maritim, you need to make an effort to make yourself noticed. This year's decoration scheme includes a safari-tested jeep and life-sized cut-out figures. The most attention-grabbing sign of Eurofurence's presence, however, are the eleven huge banners hanging in the lobby. Almost a metre in width and five metres in length, they feature animals of the Serengeti and one letter each of the word EUROFURENCE.

"The colours represent the different shades of the Serengeti sun throughout a day," explains Nimrais. The German artist was in charge of the design process and contributed two banners herself. "I then wrote to fellow artists whose style and artistic quality fit the project and asked them to contribute. Most of them said 'Yes'."

To look good on a print the height of a house, the images had to be extra high-resolution, at least 10,000 pixels on the long side. But the artistic challenges were rivalled by the difficulties of the printing process. To keep costs at bay, all banners were printed privately, at Riffuchs' home, on a Ao-sized colour printer that had become redundant at his workplace.

Little did the head of con operations know how delicate and time-consuming his special task would turn out to be. Software errors had to be worked out, metre after metre of fabric cut to their exact width, ink leakages prevented. "All in all, two people spent a good five days working in my back yard, sometimes until four in the morning."

All banners are up for sale in the artshow. All proceeds will go to charity. "If your rooms are not high enough, you can hang them to ceiling," Riffuchs suggests. "They make a great souvenir. And where else can you buy a print of this size and quality?" *(lux)*

Today's Timetable

Registration Open	
	14:00—17:00
	18:00—21:00
Opening Ceremony (Lobby)	
	17:00—19:00
BBQ (Terrace)	
	17:30—19:00
Artists' Lounge (Dresden)	
	20:00—02:00
Video Game Corner (Stuttgart)	
	20:00—02:00

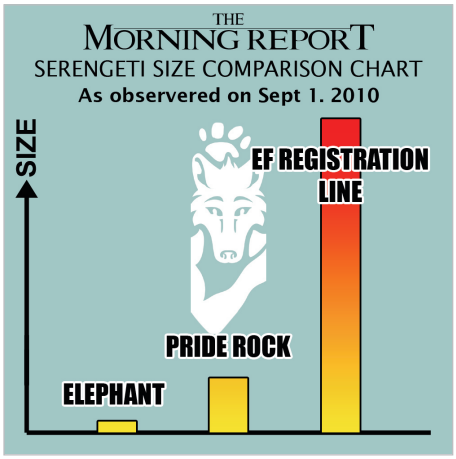
Eurofurence Attracts Media Attention

Celebrating a furry convention in the middle of a city necessarily attracts a fair share of attention, not only from locals and passers-by, but also from the media. Besides two comic fanzines, there have been requests from the MDR public television and radio station, from the local daily "Volksstimme" (which already run an article anouncing Eurofurence) as well as from the local split from Germany's biggest tabloid, BILD.

While the journalists are guided around by our experienced staff, some guests might still feel unsure about how to react when approached by a journalist. Eurofurence press relations officer Jörg "o'wolf" Reuter has good advice:

- Speak about what we are and do, not about what we are not. Be positive and open, not defensive.
- Highlight the artistic aspect of the convention, rather than trying to describe the whole fandom in all its complexities. At Eurofurence, painters, musicians, film-makers, costume builders and puppeteers are coming together to display their skill. This is at the core of the event.
- "No comment" always sounds suspicious. If you feel unsure about a question or if a topic just seems too sensitive, point the journalist to the people wearing red staff badges. They can give them a more informed explanation or refer them to core staff or media relations.

For more information about the Do's and Don'ts of public communication, o'wolf offers a SIG called "Furries in the Press" on Thursday. (lux)



a cartoon by Pegla

The Magnificent Seven

Find 7 African animals and 7 Eurofurence team leads (across, down, reverse, diagonal)

X O F T H G I N N L S U
E O S F O X X H U A H C
G Y R O P L A S T K C W
C P F P I T N T M C U A
Z I E O E C T C I A F R
E Z N E A I I Z V J F T
B G H I O Y L O S X I H
R C R Y R L O E W I R O
A Y N A P B P Z B G R G
N P J Y A N E A Y H O E

Solution: See ConOps Desk.

The Hunt

a story by Bariki

The hot sun beat down upon the tall grass, casting endless tiny shadows as it swayed gently in the breeze. Across the valley, the sunlight glistened upon the river, where the gazelle had gathered to drink and seek relief from the heat of the day. Crouched silently in the grass the lioness watched and waited, scanning the herd: the gazelle were plentiful here, their fawns splashing about and cavorting without understanding that their death was lurking only a few seconds and a mouthful of razor sharp teeth away.

Slowly, the lioness stalked closer, skirting around the grass that had been cropped short by grazing animals. Yes, she could see a knot of youngsters a little away from their parents, old enough to make a decent meal for the hungry predator but not yet old enough to outrun her. Nothing moved around her, the tall grasses seeming to flow over and around her sleek form, only the wind and the sky aware of her presence as the lioness inched closer to the gazelle, their scent carrying to her, forcing her to quell her hunger for just a moment or two more. The hunter's heart skipped a beat, sighting a fawn limping behind his brothers and sisters, probably hurt in some horseplay between them all: an easy target for the lioness.

A moment more and she reached the boundary of the long grass, within striking distance of the injured fawn. The lioness' muscles clenched, every muscle in her body taut in anticipation of what was to come. As she was about to strike and close the final distance between her and the fawn, a clear voice rang out loudly and clearly behind her.

"Found you!"

The lioness jumped and dozens of eyes suddenly fell upon her. In a frenzy of hooves and dust, the animals beside the river turned as one and bolted. With a snarl of frustration, the lioness sprung from cover and made for the lame fawn, but with the element of surprise gone even he had managed a good head start on her and was gone across the valley. Turning back to the voice that had startled her, the lioness scowled down upon the smiling face of her youngest daughter, the rumbling of her stomach battling maternal pride for having been denied so skillfully.

Impressum: Michael "Luxen" Graf (lux), Andreas "Curry" Wieland (cur), Hannu-Heikki "hHP" Puupponen (hhp), Matthias "Angus" Bauer (ang), Philipp "Batian_Lion" Belper (bat)

The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Thursday, September 2nd, 2010 #7

Kyo and Taibu are thrilled to see their creation finally on the big screen. photo: bat

A Labour of Love

Sometimes there are achievements which can be considered incredible not only because of their value as an expression of art, but also because of their completion—even if all the odds seem to be stacked against them. Kyo's "Streifen", a full–length animated movie, premiering this Friday at 3 pm (running time: 90 minutes) is one such an example.

"Streifen" is the result Kyo's deep personal desire to create a movie. It's what could be described as a dream project and while he does think that the furry fandom probably connects the most with it, he doesn't consider "Streifen" a Furry movie per se. "The movie is a modern fairy-tale. It's the struggle of a young god for power and love in a primordial universe where every ambition turns into a crusade," states Kyo.

The movie's original form consisted more of a sequence of special-effects scenes, and experiments in 3D set construction. This resulted in a product which didn't satisfy the creator. This version was overhauled with more focus on story, plot and structure. Kyo had next to no experience with the process of movie-making and achieved much through trial and error, taking inspiration from theatre-plays when it came to narration. This led to moments of hardship and anguish, but his determination to finish the project pulled him through. Kyo however, made it clear that his approach should not be taken as advice for people who want to do similar works. "It worked for me but it's certainly not a good way for everyone else." Patience was the most important virtue since One minute of film (24-frames per second) required up to fourty-eight hours of render time.

A prequel to "Streifen", called "Panzerol" is already in the works, and future projects are an option—especially if there is interest by other creative minds wishing to be part of the process. (cur)

Alexander James Adams in Concert, EF14 - photo: bat

AJA in Concert

"I'm not going to dance on this thing," Alexander James Adams laughs as he points to the piano. He only just found out that his concert takes place in the Piano Bar. Unlike other years, he will perform solo. Besides his fiddle and a guitar, he may also use CD–playback for "Karaoke" versions of some songs.

The Thursday audience can look forward to a number of yet–unheard songs from the upcoming album Un–seelie Self, in which AJA explores some of the darker sides of his imagination. "There are vampires and spooky monsters," he says. His current single, What are we doing is dark in another sense—it was written in reaction to the recent BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. (lux)

Hungry furs queue in the rain. photo: ang

BBQ

This year's opening ceremony was notably concise. Cheetah spoke briefly and presented accomplished members of Eurofurence staff. Charity for this year was explained and ways to give donations briefly described by those responsible. This also includes the official Donation Meerkats, who will be around the convention looking for your donations. Uncle Kage was content to not even speak, only pointing Cheetah out for photography.

The barbeque itself started out with the usual long queue, food having been made available from the outside terrace–area at the back of the hotel. Although the prices were itemized this year instead of the single payment of years past, this didn't seem to make those attending any less happy about the food. "It's great!", answered one fur enjoying a burger when asked their opinion of the barbeque (hHP)

The Wolf of Magdeburg

This week, beasts walk the streets of Magdeburg—or at least, occupy the Maritim Hotel, providing an interesting sight to the citizens of the city. But what many Furry Fans attending EF may not know...is that this happened once before, long ago.

In the early 1800s, wolves would descend the mountains during harsh winters and roam the streets in search of food. Their presence kept people indoors.

One particularly harsh winter, infants began to disappear from their nurseries in the night, one after another, gripping the town in fear. The townspeople demanded action from the town burghers, and one—a magistrate named Breber—determined from prints in the new-fallen snow, that a single wolf was responsible. The wolf was acting alone. Boldly entering homes in the night, silently carrying off its prey.

Curfews were ordered; Watches established. The abductions continued; the lone wolf never seen. The failure to end the attacks made Breber the target of public outrage and ridicule. His own wife even stopped talking to him.

As the crisis continued, even the Lord Mayor was victimed. Panic filled the air. Desperate, Breber began patrolling the streets with his men. One night, in the fog and snow, he became disoriented and sought shelter in a doorway. Taking a moment to light his pipe, he was knocked down by a ragged figure. He recognised his attacker as one of the first mothers to lose a child. As he rose, she giggled insanely and muttered, "The night has teeth, the night has claws! And I...I have FOUND THEM!"

She turned away wandering down the street. Breber following, beyond the town gate, over the fields, to the edge of the forest. He had lost sight of her. A scream came from a hunting lodge, closed for the winter. Upon entering, he saw the woman, now a bleeding corpse. Standing over her and a small wrapped bundle was a huge wolf.

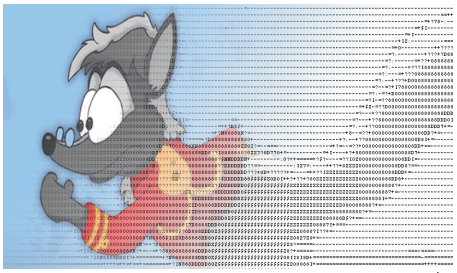
The wolf lunged at Breber, who made a desperate slash at its throat. The wolf fell. Breber stabbed at it repeatedly; the wolf transformed. Now lying before him was the body of a woman...his wife.

Breber returned to town with the still-living infant, and made his report. He asked the townsfolk to dispose of his wife´s body. The abductions ended that night; the town burghers concluded that Breber´s wife, during a hunting expedition through the Harz, drank from an enchanted pool or stream, which in turn lead to her transformation.

And so for this week, in Magdeburg, once again the night has teeth and claws (rex).

In the Muck

Twenty years after its creation, FurryMUCK still attracts a loyal user–base. But isn't text–based role–playing an anachronism in the age of Second Life?



art: pegla

"Well there's a two–toed bat playing cards with a mink and there's a pack rat making away with the kitchen sink"—the variety of characters that Matthew Ebel described in his humorous song "In the Muck" can still be found on FurryMUCK. Established in 1990, the platform was the first to combine the fast–paced textual role–play of MUDs with anthropomorphic aesthetics.

Twenty years later, graphical social–platforms like Second Life are widely used within the furry community. For FurryMUCK, the trend has been declining. Some younger furs have never even heard of it. Is it a dying platform? "I don't think so", says StukaFox. We meet the vulpine aboard his hoover–van vehicle, politely reciprocating his greetings by typing ":greets happily again".

StukaFox, who stumbled upon FurryMUCK in 1993 over a posting in the alt.fan.furry newsgroup, is convinced that the MUCK format will always remain preferable for some, being richer and more personal. "All have their own impression of the world. I also think FM lends itself to better conversation, better relationships. With SL, you're talking to a picture—on FM, you're talking to a character."

Given the the visual impact and possibilities of the newer platforms, is it still worthwhile to give venerable old FurryMUCK a try? We think so. The text–based format requires only a very simple client; it can run it on your netbook or smartphone. The communities are usually very friendly and welcoming, and there is plenty to see. Most MUCKs also allow you to build your own home or event space—for free! And with language as a medium, creativity is limited only by imagination. Who would have imagined how much fun a creative textual snowball fight could be? (hhp)

Picture of the Day

Some wolves are polite, and get to know their potential prey. photo: ang

A Letter to the "Daily"

[Editor's note: just before going to press this morning, we found a badly–written note stuffed under the main front gates of the Daily Eurofurence publishing emporium. Reading between the toothmarks and drool–stains, we were able to piece together the following]

Dear People,

I am one of the Eurofurence dogs, and I *love* it here. Being a dog at Eurofurence is, like, the greatest gig on earth. Excitement, interest and attention all day long? Sign me up!

But before you pet me, please imagine what a furry convention is like from the height of a dog's nose. I spend the whole day pushing through a forest of legs, under a riot of noise and smells, a constant rain of petting hands, and all the while I'm wondering what happened to my comfortable daily routine. It's total fun—but it can be just a little bit bewildering.

Here's a few tips to make my con less stressful and more fun:

* Pet me! Please! But first check with the person who's holding my leash. Remember that it's their job to shield me if I need a break.

* Remember basic dog etiquette. Move gently, and let me know you're there before you touch me. Avoid staring, but keep an eye on me to see how I'm responding to you. Don't touch my head until we know each other—pet my haunches, shoulders and throat instead.

* *Don't* Feed me snacks; they're *not* good for me. *[Editor's note: the "Don't" and "not" are scrawled in the margin in a different pen.]*

And that's all. I plan to have a wonderful convention. Come and say hi!

Love,

M__ch_ *[Editor's note: signature illegible.]*

Announcements:

The location of the fursuit photoshoot has been changed from Salon Magdeburg to Maritim 2 (in front of the fursuit lounge)

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If you leave tips in your room for the cleaning staff, leave a note; otherwise they will think you left it by mistake

Today's Timetable

Art Show
Setup..... 09:00–12:00
General Admission.....12:00–18:00

Dealers' Den
Setup..... 09:00–12:00
Supersponsor Preview.....12:00–13:00
General Admission.....13:00–18:00

Guest of Honour
Why a Rabbit (Dresden).....13:30–15:00

Supersponser Exclusive
Sake Appreciation (Dresden).....15:00–16:30

Fursuit Photoshoot (Maritim 2)
Registration.....12:00–13:00
Shooting.....13:00–17:00

Fursuiting
Fursuit Gameshow
Prelims (Lobby)..... 12:00–15:00
First-Time Fursuiting (Stutt).....13:30–15:00
Advanced Fursuit Building (Mün)...13:30–15:00
Advanced Fursuit Design (Mün)..15:00–18:00
Stage Fever Rehearsal (Main).....16:30–19:30
Stage Fever 4: Live from the Wild
The EF Fursuit Show (Main)...19:30–21:00
Fursuit Dance (Main Stage).....21:30–

Events
Welcome to Eurofurence (Stutt)...12:00–13:30
Furries in the Press (Halle).....13:30–15:00
Beginning Puppetry (Nürn)..... 13:30–15:00
Alexander James Adams Live (Piano). 15:00–17:00
Banner Brawl (Main)..... 15:00–16:30
Video Editing Round Table (Dres).. 15:00–16:30
Game Developers Round Table (Halle). 15:00–18:00
Author Reading Round Table (Nürn). 15:00–18:00
Avian Characters (Dres).....16:30–18:00
Heathen City Backstage:
Commentary and QA (Stutt)...16:30–18:00

Recurring
Artists' Lounge (Dresden)..... 20:00–
Dance Dance Revolution (Stutt)..... 20:00–
Video Game Corner (München)..... 20:00–
Game Corner (Halle)..... 20:00–

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch; Vulpes Rex:

The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Friday, September 3rd, 2010 #8

The boys shake it for the audience. photo: bat

Furries Got Talent!

Although Stage Fever was the first large event on the new, bigger stage, the performers felt at home right from the start and delivered a delightful show.

A wild pot-pourri of acts were presented to the audience this year. It ranged from the problems of a poor hound with his wife and the local police, to a godzilla-esque reign of destruction: descending upon the hapless town through the paws of a giant purple cupcake-craving skunk. This year's acts where truly a wild romp of imagination. Some were thought-provoking, others just a hilarious collection of nonsense, sometimes minced with dark and politically incorrect humour. Some actors displayed an incredible amount of fursuiting skill, ranging from truly awesome dance moves, to such intricate tasks as playing guitars. A few of the jokes may have been hard to get for an audience not familiar with Internet memes such as "carmelldansen," yet that didn't seem to bother the audience, which was proven by ample applause. The show itself was confidently moderated by Mystifur, who didn't let technical issues get in the way of fun, much to the "horror" of the poor audience members, who fell prey to his so-called "evil time".

It was a great time for everyone involved, with every performer receiving stage-awards and acclaim. There were even a few nuggets of wisdom everyone could carry out of the showroom: Dogs make bad drivers, fishing on the stage is futile, keep a close grip on your wallets next to Vets Without Borders, and most important of all... there is no FIA! (cur)

Critters Compete for Spots in Limelight

On Thursday afternoon fursuiters were able take part in qualification competition for the fursuit gameshow. Altogether six different challenges awaited teams consisting of two fursuiters each. Four events would count towards the final score for classification, thus making participating in more of the events beneficial as the worst scores would get left out that way.

Contests especially involving speed included for example transferring plushie mice into baskets with a garbage picker. Some of the challenges demanded precision, into this category belonged the considerably difficult task to tie a lace onto a wooden rendition of a shoe and the electric game of passing a wire loop around a twisted wire. Charity round tasked the fursuiters to collect donations for charity with points awarded by value of donations

Fursuit: Manual Dexterity -2. photo: ang

and potentially deducted for taking too long to return. The main event with the eight best-scoring teams will start today 13:30 on main stage. (hHP)

The girls deep in thought. photo: chiatz

Please Draw: Armageddon

Eurofurence's tradition of artists' challenges on the main stage was continued yesterday in the form of "Banner Brawl". Fairlight and Twll, the two moderators who, according to their own words, "left their sanity back home in the UK" led through a game–format that was both simple and fun. Equipped with a large piece of canvas and permanent markers, renowned artists faced up in the quest of turning random words into convincing illustrations.

The "girls team" (Tani DaReal, Nimrais and Eosfoxx) was separated from the "boys team" (Colifox, J.D. Puppy and Yamaru) by a screen, making it impossible for them to see what their competitors were drawing. They had two minutes to turn a randomly selected prompt into a picture. Hilarity was guaranteed, asking the artists to draw things such as zombie mothers, three-headed lions or Armageddon. In a masterpiece of recycling existing drawings, Colifox turned a fleet of UFOs into tasty Eurofurence burgers. In the end, the boys' banner got the most applause and carried the victory. "They were a bit cheekier and risked more," commented Fairlight. Still, neither the girls nor the audience had any regrets; the quality and inventiveness of the impromptu-drawings was impressive and everybody had a good time. (lux)

Qualifiers Are...

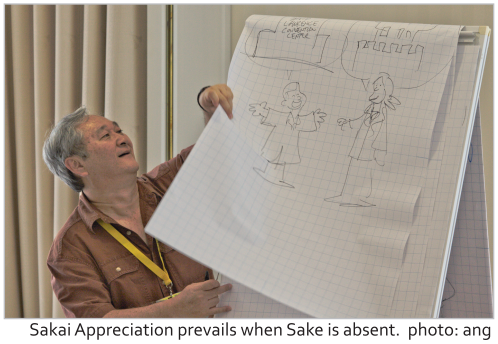
The following teams have qualified for the Fursuit Game Show:

1.	Team 20	Faert and Acida	82.95%
2.	Team 22	Rakshass and Sofia	71.25%
3.	Team 12	Furfinn and Junkvist	70.78%
4.	Team 24	Cueball and Ravell	70.03%
5.	Team 16	Yien Ping and Buddy	69.66%
6.	Team 26	Redmoon Wolfen & Yotie	67.38%
7.	Team 23	Griseus and JBadger	66.43%
8.	Team 19	Asgra and Kashjew	66.26%

Announcements:

Due to Sakai Appreciation, Sake Appreciation has been moved to 12:00 in Dresden.

Super-Sponsors: Is It Worth It?



Sakai Appreciation prevails when Sake is absent. photo: ang

In the past, Eurofurence has offered its members two tiers of membership: A Regular Attending, and a Sponsor level. This year however, Eurofurence has chosen to follow the example of the American conventions, and offer a still-higher tiered rate: super-sponsor. This new tier also comes with special privileges and knick-knacks, unavailable to the majority of Eurofurence attendees: among these are separate lines for events, and reserved pre-seating for stage shows.

This raises certain questions, and seems to challenge certain ideals, long taken for granted at Eurofurence: mainly the idea that everyone is treated equally and no one has an advantage over another. So why has Eurofurence done this?

This past year has seen extraordinary price pressures, partly due to the move to a larger hotel in a new city, these were inevitable, and partly due to the changes in tax law. To keep the convention experience at least as good as it was in the past, let alone improve upon it, something had to be done: one solution was to do as other conventions have done and add a new tier.

Eurofurence chairman Cheetah is not worried about there being bad blood among the con-guests, as he argues that the extra contribution of the super-sponsors helps to keep prices down for the normal con-goers. "There are always people who feel they get less than others. But I don't think our benefits are excessive. And, to be honest, I would feel worse not giving the super-sponsors something in return for their money."

"I Like Guy Stuff"

With the third book of Heathen City hitting the Dealers' Den tables, Alex F. Vance was pleased to talk openly about his creation.

Heathen City's genesis started with a failed attempt at participating in the NaNoWriMo - the National Novel Writing Month. "When my 'serious' novel project failed to take off, I started over again and wrote a story just for me—full of guilty pleasure. It had sex, mystery and noir-elements; the kind of thing I would desperately enjoy reading," Maranatha was born.

The novel was made available online and quickly found acclaim. By the time it had grown to over 90,000 words, Alex was held back by wrist problems. He stalled writing and focused on editing other people's fiction for his newly founded Bad Dog Books press. Some years later, a mystery financier sweet-talked Alex into publishing Maranatha as a book. From then, things took on a dynamic of their own. "I honestly don't know when the project changed from a heavily illustrated book to a graphic novel," Alex claims.

In yesterday's SIG, he proudly presented the third installment of his series. As in the second book, the artwork was done by several artists. "I realized that producing 56 colour pages was simply too much work for any one person," he commented. Besides artistic prowess, what Alex expects of contributing artists, some of whom he has never met in person, is a talent for serialised art and, more than anything, endurance. He has seen more than one capable artist give up under the workload.

The universe Heathen City is set in is loosely based on Maranatha. Characters like Owen, the hustler and Malloy, his tougher-than-life Doberman friend re-appear. The stories defy genre—there is sex and violence, romance and catastrophe. "I like guy stuff," Alex admits: "Weapons, blood, action scenes. My writing should get your heart pumping, your dick hard and your brain running."

Is there a master-plan behind the Heathen City series? "Well, I know the final scene," Alex replies. "But I have more than one option how to get there." What is sure is that the series will be continued. "I know that I have enough material for eight to ten books." (lux)

comic: pegla

Our Furry Past

Modern Furry Fandom as we know it came into being in 1984. We know this because Fred Patten has pinpointed the event and written about it.

Who is this man? As a major "behind-the-scenes" figure, Fred has participated in or was key in the formation of Science Fiction, Fantasy, Manga, Anime, Western Animation, and Anthropomorphic – to us, "Furry" - fandoms; so much so that he is regarded as THE historian for Collective Fandom. He was principle in promoting Japanese Manga and Anime in the west, by convincing the Japanese that there was a viable market for their products in North America and in Europe. And he was there at the start of the Indie Comic Explosion, when Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Albedo, Omaha The Cat Dancer and Cerberus were published.

As a professional librarian, fan writer and historian, Fred built an impressive collection of pulp magazines, fan publications, first-edition books, manuscripts and screenplays, animation cels, and letters from major SF/Fantasy/Animation personalities, many now deceased.

But in April of 2005 Fred suffered a debilitating stroke, which confined him to a convalescent hospital and depleted his savings and pension, leaving him destitute; forced out of his apartment, Fred´s friends came to remove his collection. What they found was a treasure of historic relevance—over 800 boxes of documents and publications were picked up and in accordance with Fred´s wishes, delivered to the Eaton Collection of Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Utopian Writing, housed at the University of California, Riverside Campus.

Fred didn't plan this, but is at least still around to have a say in how his collection was treated. It is important that fans today take measures to preserve their own collections, as publishers go out of business, and on-line art and story archives disappear due to neglect, disinterest, or simple mechanical failure. If you have a collection of fan publications, comic books, or furry art, no matter how insignificant you may think it to be, you have a portion of Furry History, and possibly the only example still in existence. (rex)

Today's Timetable

Group Photo (Lobby).....11:30-12:00

Art Show
General Admission.....12:00–18:00
Closing.....18:00-20:00
Auction.....20:00-21:30

Dealers' Den
General Admission.....12:00–18:00

Super Sponsor
Sake Appreciation (Dresden).....12:00-13:30

Guest of Honour
Yokai and Other Creatures of the
Japanese Imagination.....13:30-15:00

Main Stage
Fursuit Gameshow 13:30–15:00
Fursuit Theatre: Jordan Blake and the
Temple of the Four Winds.....16:30-18:00
Uncle Kage vs 2.....22:00-01:00

Fursuit Photoshoot (Maritim 2)
Registration.....12:00–13:00
Shooting.....13:00–17:00

Artists and Writers
Planning Pictures,
Creating Concepts (Stutt).....13:30-15:00
Advanced Puppetry (Stutt).....15:00-16:30
A Thousand Words: What Writers
can Learn from Artists (Nürn)..15:00-16:00
A Thousand Ships: What Artists
can Learn from Writers (Nürn)..16:30-18:00
Effective Writing (Stutt).....16:30-18:00

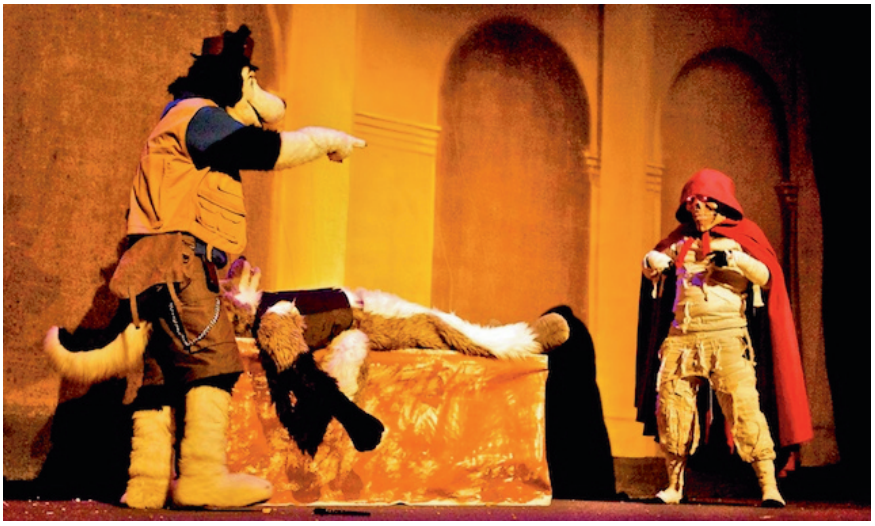
Events
Truth and Rumours
About Obama (Dresden).....13:30-15:00
Advanced Second Life (Mün).....13:30-15:00
Cheetah Conservation
Fund Namibia (Nürn).....13:30-15:00
Open the Microphone (Dres).....15:00-16:30
Streifen (München).....15:00-16:40
Can you Feel the Beat Tonight (Halle) 15:00-18:00
Learning to Fly (Dres).....16:30-18:00
Streifen and Beyond (Mün).....16:40-18:00

Recurring
Artists' Lounge (Dresden)..... 20:00–
Dance Dance Revolution (Stutt)..... 20:00–
Video Game Corner (München)..... 20:00–
Game Corner (Halle)..... 20:00–

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch

The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Saturday, September 4rd, 2010 #9



Fursuit Theatre Becomes A Reality

The first full-fledged fursuit stage play in the history of Eurofurence had all the ingredients of a good adventure story: two fearless treasure-hunters, a nefarious undead high-priest with a hunger for world domination and a whole bunch of shiny special effects and stage props.

Happy-go-lucky archæologist Jordan Blake (EZ_Wolf) and his cautious friend Alex Dyson (Kwisa) are exploring the spider-infested catacombs of the Temple of the Four Winds. Their quest for the Eye of Tamamet, a mythic jewel, is riddled with dangers, among others: loose boulders. When Jordan accidentally moves a skull off its pedestal, he awakens Matuth, the evil spirit of a former temple priest. Matuth takes control of his mind and makes him shoot at his friend Alex, who has found the Eye. Moved by the death of his friend, Jordan regains his self-control, fights and defeats the demon. The power of the jewel restores Alex to life and vanishes. Jordan concludes: "I found out I already had the most valued thing in life... true friendship!"

"Jordan Blake and the Temple of the Four Winds" was received with standing ovations. It was an impressive début by all standards. First and foremost, the play written and directed by Shay proved once and for all that convincing storytelling beyond funny skits is possible for fursuiters. The lack of facial expression was compensated by gestures and body language. The dialogues were well-written and voice actors Shay and Twll did their best to make the characters come alive through their dialogue lines. Sophisticated props, a full-size backdrop and beautifully edited video sequences added to the flair of the story. While there is room for improvement when it comes to plot and pacing, the production radiated an air of quality and promise. "There are many more plays to come," promised an emotionally overwhelmed Shay after the successful début. (lux; photo: ang)

Furs stampede in at art-show close. photo: tekumseh

Going Once! Going Twice! Sold!

No matter how spacious the art show aisles were this year, when the art show closing drew near, they were completely clogged by a mass of frantic last-minute bidders and curious spectators. Later on the main stage, seasoned auctioneer Uncle Kage did his usual hard selling. Whether he was mock-insulting a "soft-voiced pussy boy in the back" or rounding odd numbers to the next multiple of fifty, he knew exactly how to egg on potential buyers and tickle them into bidding more than they would have dared to in a more sober state of mind.

A higher than usual share of items were sold for charity this year and some sold very well. Top of the the class ShinigamiGirl's lion banner currently still hanging in the lobby at €350, a red fox partial suit by Lance Ikegawa at €750 and the last piece of all, an original "Usagi Yojimbo" sketch by guest of honour Stan Sakai at a mind-boggling €1000. The arguably most sought-after piece of the auction, Tani DaReal's humorous "Nightmare before Eurofurence" changed hands for a respectable €400. What will be remembered is that you had better "not fuck with the auctioneer" and that nobody can say "Aufgewertete Getränkeunterlegematte" quite like Uncle Kage. (lux)

2 looks upon Kage on stage. Photo by tek.

Kage vs 2

Once again the two furry kings of comedy gave an incredibly entertaining performance even if their usual routine was shaken up a bit by this year's case of delayitis, which afflicted much this evening. Kage and 2 simply skipped their individual acts and combined it into the famous Kage vs. 2 comedy duo right from the start.

They were each exchanging their newest adventures: Kage's encounter with the Wagnerian customs officer Helga and a Christstollen (fruit cake) possessing the density of C4-explosives at the airport in Frankfurt; 2 on the other hand gave us insight into the female mind and advised every straight fur to go on a quest to find the mighty all-knowing clitoracle to help them understand a woman's feelings in the future and to avoid a minefield of œstrogen grenades, raining down onto their sorry tails. Those were just two examples of their repertoire this year but no matter what skit, they all had the audience in stitches. (cur)

Helping Paws

Cheetahs are a favourite among Eurofurence visitors even without the Serengeti motto. But in their home territory, the world´s fastest cat has the odds against it. They are built to be fast, but they are also fragile; their genetic diversity is narrow and cattle farmers regard any predator on "their" land as a threat to livestock. The worst threat to the survival of the species is habitat destruction, brought about by western farming methods, says Markus "garra" Haferkamp, who gave a presentation for the Cheetah Conservation Fund Namibia this afternoon.

To give the 30,000 cheetahs in Namibia a fighting chance, the fund takes a 3-pronged approach: first, to research cheetah behaviour and to track population; second, to promote eradication of the invasive acacia species, by promoting harvest and fabrication into "Bushblok" fuel bricks; and finally a campaign to educate and promote habitat-friendly farming practices. They promote the idea of "eco-tourism" as a worthwhile economic engine, best maintained with a healthy population of native African wildlife – including, of course, cheetahs. These activities are supported by fundraising, a tourist lodge, visitor centres as well as by "internships" paid by volunteers willing to assist in field research project. Chances may be slim, but at least the beautiful tearmarked feline is not alone in his fight for survival. Your donation could make a difference. (rex/lux)

Comic by Pegla

Let the Games Begin!

The fifth anniversary of the fursuit gameshow took place today with the eight best-scoring teams from the preliminary qualifying round. Other events taking place close to the same time had probably caused a slightly smaller audience to attend, but there was still a good amount of spectators to watch the fursuiters compete in the savannah-themed challenges.

This year's format had two contests determining the team going forward – allowing everyone to try their paw on at least two different events before getting eliminated. Or in this case, getting banished to the plains. Competitive events and scoring went through smoothly, even if the referees got slightly disoriented a couple of times, taking a moment to choose which team had been competing on which side of the stage.

There were some some novel challenges, including fishing for gems from a watering hole and balancing out the gameshow trophies by placing different sizes of unicorn plushies on the other bucket. Contests involving precision were included; for example, pulling thin metal

Suiters competing on stage. Photo: ang

wires one by one out of a perforated metal waste paper basket with the upper portion of the basket filled with styrofoam balls. The challenge was to not cause any of the balls to drop to the bottom.

A couple of contests from the qualifying round returned in a changed form, including sharpshooting with two kinds of soft projectile weaponry this time around. Also, the knowledge of African wildlife was quizzed, having the fursuiters place together the correct animal tracks with the species that would leave them.

Spectators were even involved: holding diseased bugs one event, and different colours of fruit in another for collection by the competing suiters. Feeding the audience was taken care of by having contestants exchange coloured pieces of paper for similar coloured sweets. In the end, Cueball and Ravell emerged victorious. (hHP)

Photo of the Day

The cougar's patience pays off when the wiener comes up for air. Photo: ang

Announcements:

The Game-show: Dr Furringstone start-time has been moved to 16:30.

Today's Timetable

Furry Music Café (Piano Bar).....15:00–17:00

Art Show
Sales and Pickup.....14:00-18:00

Dealers' Den
General Admission.....12:00–18:00

Fursuit Photoshoot (Magdeburg)
Registration..... 13:30—14:30
Shooting.....14:30—18:00

Supersponsor Exclusive
The Ugly American (Dresden).....15:00–16:30

Main Stage
Gameshow Dr. Furringstone.....16:30–18:30
Ogwambi! – The Eurofurence
Pawpet Show.....19:00–22:00
Big Blue Dance.....22:30–

Fursuit
Fursuit Parade.....12:00–13:00
Fibreglass Heads (Halle)..... 15:00–16:30
Electronics for Fursuiters (Halle)..16:30–18:00
Improve your Acting Skills (Stutt)..13:30–15:00

Art and Writing
Creating Comics (München).....13:30–15:00
Intro to 3D Using Blender (Halle).....13:30–15:00
Professional Story Telling (Nürn).....13:30-16:30
Small-Press Publishing (Mün).....15:00–16:30
Anthropomorphic Anatomy (Dres)...16:30–18:00
Getting Published: How to Polish,
Proof and Prepare (Nürn).....16:30–18:00

Events
Motofurs Meeting (Parking Lot)..13:30—15:00
Science, Pseudoscience and
Outright Crap (Dres).....13:30—15:00
Pawpet Round Table (Stutt).....15:00—16:30
Divers Meeting (Pool)..... 16:30—18:00
DJing Round Table (Stutt)..... 16:30—18:00
Furries in History (Mün).....16:30—18:00

Recurring
Artists' Lounge (Dresden).....22:30–
Dance Dance Revolution (Stutt).....22:30–
Video Game Corner (München)..... 22:30–
Game Corner (Halle)..... 22:30–

Smooth sailing ahead

The convention has reached the half-way mark. The guests have settled in, the first, large events have passed and the hotel staff themselves have now experienced a good dose of "furriness", time for a little recap.

So much has happened since last Eurofurence causing the convention guests had to adapt to many changes. First and foremost is the fact that the con is no longer situated in the rural countryside, isolated from the everyday life of the locals. Eurofurence has arrived in the heart of a large and historic city and while we are all euphoric about the possibilities that this new consite offers to us, a lot of attendees feel a little overwhelmed by the attention Eurofurence is receiving – be it from the media or the local public.

It will take a little getting used to when it comes to the fact that non-furs can walk into the hotel, wanting to get a first hand impression of the colourful, strange creatures they have read about in the newspaper or have seen on the local television. Most of the little kinks that were experienced during the first day of the con have been ironed out hopefully meaning the rest of the event should run much smoother.

Yet there are still a few smaller patches of roughness ahead. Our own con-staff had to realize just how spoiled they have been by the more than excellent relationship that had been established in the Ringberg Hotel. Particularly in that a within a more business oriented environment, conveniences have a price tag. And indeed, it is very easy to drop quite a sum of cash behind these six days. The higher prices of goods and services are to be expected of a hotel as prestigious as the Maritim. The service offered is excellent and the staff is quick to respond and are truly competent.

Yet it is clear that we are a demographic that both the city as well as the hotel haven't experienced yet. Most of the feedback is positive. Children are delighted, and most general folks are amused and entertained. Yet some seem to be a little overwhelmed, especially throughout the surrounding stores and restaurants. It is obvious that such a large number of customers is unusual for the city and while there might have been some tension, it seems to be lessening as things progress and we all get better acquainted. (cur)

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch

The Daily Eurofurence

Maritim Hotel Magdeburg. Sunday, September 5th, 2010 #10

Truth Delivered on Wings of Thunder

This year the Pawpeteers sent our four friends right into the heart of Africa on a quest to bring back the lost wisdom and truth to two warring tribes.

Compared to last year's performance, this year's show might have appeared less bombastic but that didn't at all hinder its success. Quite the contrary. While last year's play delivered incredible special effects, never before seen on a Paw Pet stage, this year's story delivered a wonderful tale of love, friendship and dedication. It was a dramatic tale inspired as much by classical myth and tribal tales as well as "Romeo and Juliet". The moving story of a hyena warrior and a lioness princess who sacrificed everything to bring peace to their tribes through the exposure the atrocities committed in the name of power and greed may not sound like something too original – but the emotional performance and wonderfully developed characters gave the age old tale of star-crossed lovers the needed heart to reach the audience. The show pretty much had all the ingredients of an ancient myth. Warring tribes, powerful lore and in the end, deliverance from evil by the power of the gods. The more serious parts were set off fantastically by great moments of comedy as Lori, who fulfilled the classical mythic role of the wise sage, encountered a tribe of rather anxious meerkats. Indeed, this year's paw pet show was Lori's moment to shine, as she tackled with issues of responsibility and guilt. There were a few venues that could have been explored a little closer, such as Lionel's exploration of his roots and his place inside a tribal society of lions. The cultural differences were hinted at, but did not really become fleshed out. All in all, it can be said that the Paw Pet show delivered a beautiful and engaging tale that could have come right out of the heart of Mother Africa. (cur)

Musicians Rock Piano Bar

While there may be no such thing as a free lunch, Eurofurence has a tradition of providing the audience with free coffee and cookies during the Furry Music Café. The Piano bar provided the perfect setting for the mid-afternoon music jam; about a hundred furs lounged on its cozy sofas and stylish bar stools. From ragtime to metal ballads to folk tunes, there was something for almost everyone's taste. Jari even delivered a grunting industrial rap about "werewolves, eating people".

Event organizer Chama used the occasion to provide previews into his upcoming project "One Day". The concept album, describing a future world where humans, furs and robots clash, will be released and performed on stage next year. Being the creative mind he is, he also presented a brand-new song, entitled "Science and Magic", written on-site and dedicated to a special guest, Alexander J. Adams. The band, whose members included Eisfuchs (drums and vocals), Garra (guitar) and Taibu (bass) also brought back some of the popular tunes of the fondly remembered Fauna Project, such as "Cityfox", "Do Not Love", and "Children of the Sun", much to the audience's delight. (lux)

Impressum: Luxen: Michael Graf; Curry: Andreas Wieland; hHP: Hannu-Heikki Puupponen; Angus: Matthias Bauer; Batian_Lion: Phillip Belper; Ice-Wolf: Carlos Koch

Announcements:
Checkout @ Noon

Today's Timetable

Hotel Checkout.....–12:00
Feedback Session (Mün).....13:00–14:30
Dead Dog Party (Piano Bar).....20:00–02:00

Within Hallowed Halls

Sometimes our fearless reporters risk their life and sanity to bring you, our dear reader, the latest news. This time we managed to infiltrate one of the most mysterious and secret rituals happening during the Con, the infamous Paw Pet Show rehearsal.

Thanks to the helpful assistance of a Hyena guide and the thorough guide tour, provided by a mostly harmless dragon, our reporter was able to see first hand the incredible feat of dedication and logistics going on behind the stage. He had witnessed what was a well rehearsed and co-ordinated team, behind the curtain as well as on the technical stage at the back of the auditorium.

The stage was cluttered with props, scene backgrounds, script sheets and puppets. Everything was arranged to allow quick application as well as being numbered and registered to not create confusion during the performance and to allow for maximum efficiency. The larger stage space is of course a blessing when it comes to storage. The puppeteers and stage hands experienced a few inconveniences of the new working area, such as the curtain and backdrop operation. But excellent communication inside the team as well as long years of routine will help them pull the show off without major problem. Our reporter even was let in on some trade secrets; for example, some of the smaller speaking parts sometimes are prerecorded to ease operation during the performance. Seeing the inner operation of the show is as exciting as the final product itself. (cur)

"Dr. Furringstone," I Presume

A small audience gathered to watch Dr. Furringstone select a new assistant. The interview process involved recognition of African wildlife with a picture quiz where quick identification of the gradually appearing image provided more points. His departing assistant, Stanley, was quick to provide off-beat facts about each species.

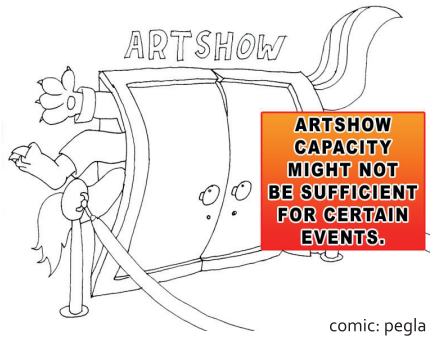
Three candidates took part in each of the first two rounds. Two winners moved on to a final with more obscure species and difficult pictures. The most important part was still to come, as Dr. Furringstone wanted to ensure that the new assistant will be able to cope with handling real animals. Both finalists were provided with bait and the canine unleashed – this test ending in favour of Kieran.(hHP)

Fursuits go "Hi-Tech"

Furvan, Tioh and Kittfoxx gave a class on practical animatronics – the art of animating inanimate things using electronics – to an eager crowd of furs who wish to take their suits to The Next Level in creating the illusion of anthro life.

Whatever techniques for creating and controlling movement are used, all agreed that heads must be sturdy and rigid, yet lightweight; that points of movement must be as friction-free as possible; and moving parts must be as light as possible. Only then can one worry about servomotors (using the lightest yet most rugged available). Placement must take into account such hazards as bumping into unseen objects and over-enthusiastic hugs from fans.

As more controls are added (directional eyes, eyelids, "snarl" feature, etc.) it becomes too difficult to manually control all servos. Enter the programmable micro-controller, a circuit as small as a postage stamp, which is programmed to run the servos simultaneously; this is good for scripted performances synchronised to a voice track or music. Add an MPC player to cue the performer, and the internal soundtrack can be linked to the P/A system via "Bluetooth". How about a fully articulated, emotion-expressive tail? They are working on it... (Rex)



comic: pegla

EF Photos:

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